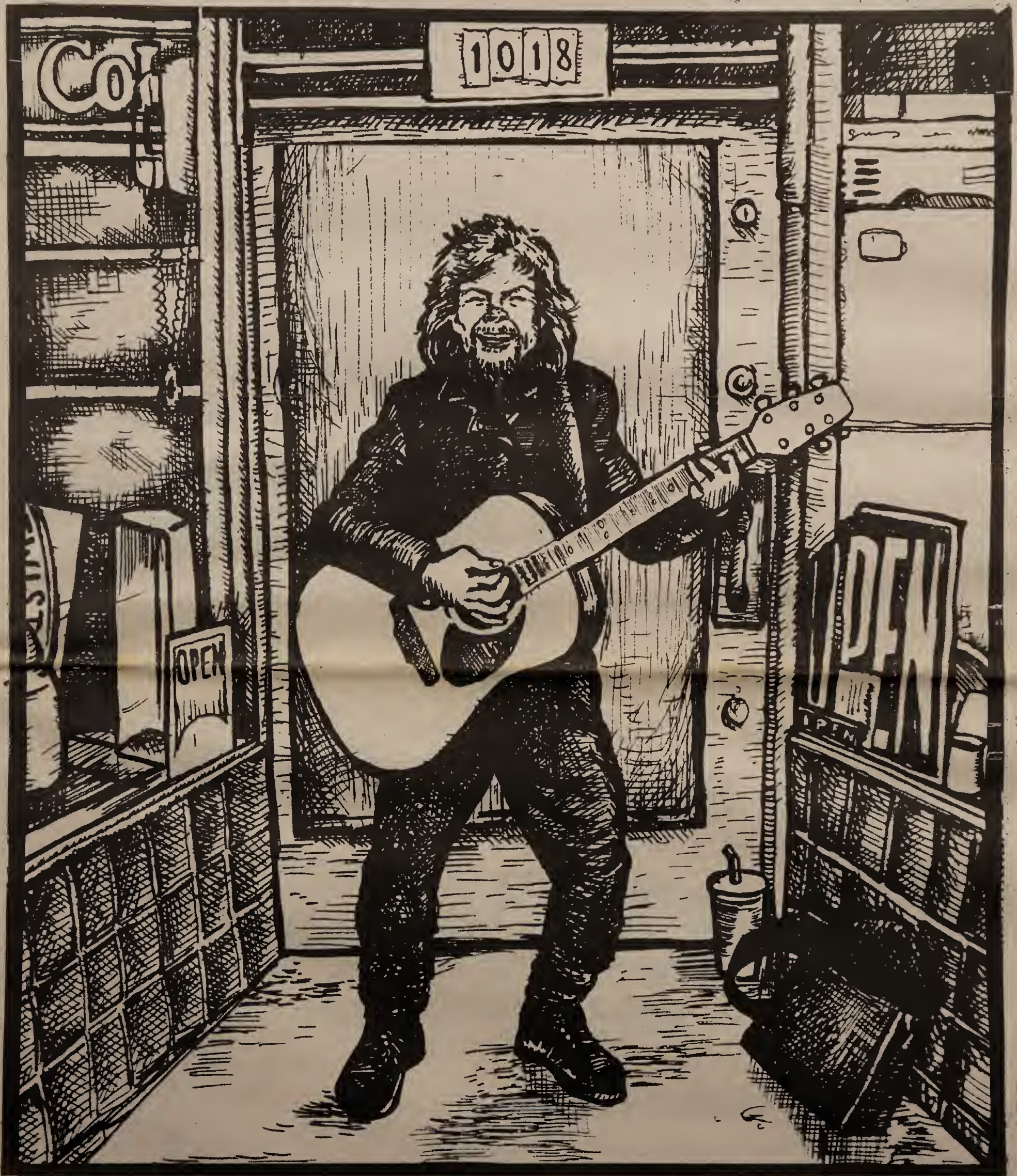


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**REVOLUTION at MHDC!**

*STORY ON PAGE 3*





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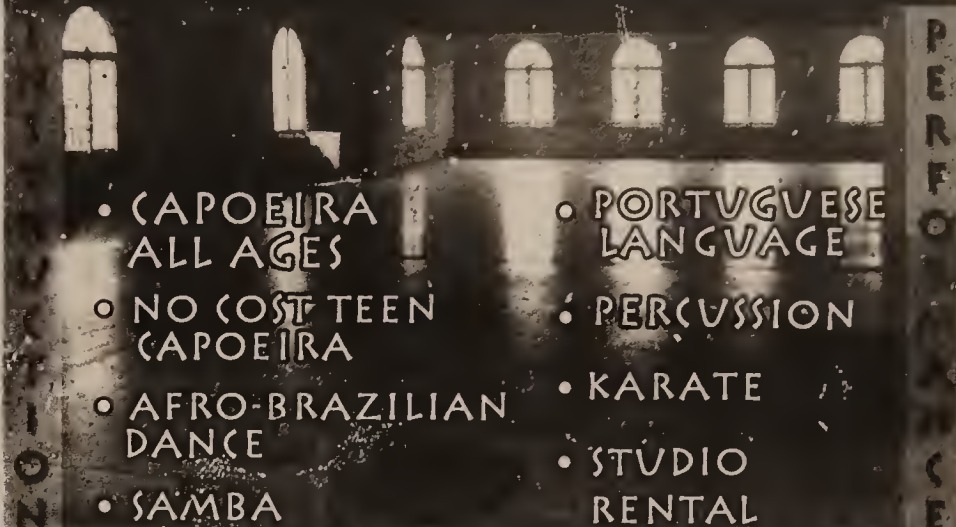
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### Fourth Consecutive Season

# TEAM WINS CITY SOCCER CHAMPIONSHIP

Records dating back to 1967 show that Horace Mann is the only Middle School to win City Soccer Titles four years in a row. The Mann team has won the City Title 14 times since 1956. The Soccer Team has also won the pre-season tournament the last three years. They have not lost a league or pre-season game in more than 3 1/2 years.

The final was played against A.P. Giannini Middle School at Boxer Stadium. The final score was 2-1. The winning goal was scored by Jaime Barragan in the final eight minutes of the game.

During the course of the season each player scored at least one goal. Coach Mike Beltran says, "This team has had to work very hard to win a fourth title. They played a very hard game against a strong Giannini side and deserved to win the game." The team scored 51 goals and gave up 8 during the course of their league and playoff games. This was their third consecutive undefeated and un-tied season.



**2004 HORACE MANN SOCCER TEAM** Standing (L-R) Juan Mosqueda, Octavio Romo, Angel Olascoaga, Adolfo Garcia, Noe Castro, Salome Guzman, Franklin Arriola, Marcio Panti, Coach Beltran Kneeling (L-R) Ariel Arias, Jose Pimentel, Diego Solis, Jesus Solis, Jaime Barragan, Hector Becerra, Mauricio Cabezas, Jose Banderas

# REVOLUTION at M.H.D.C.

by Alfonso Texidor

There is big trouble at MHDC.

Formed in 1971, Mission Housing Development Corporation (MHDC) is San Francisco's oldest affordable housing developer. Building housing for the city's low-income families, seniors, and homeless adults for more than 30 years, and dedicated to community organizing and empowerment, they were at the forefront of the struggles for economic, social and housing justice; and actively supported the cause of affordable housing at the Planning Commission's public hearings, especially during the housing crises of the last few years.

Over the years MDHC took sites that were blighted and burnt out (with nicknames like the "Pit") and created numerous housing developments that were well-designed communities. These housing developments meshed with the character of the neighborhood and were enhanced by social services, plazas, playgrounds and community art. Today, hundreds of people throughout the Mission District live in MHDC housing that is well managed and of high quality. Tenants include a broad, multi-cultural range of people of all ages—single men and women, seniors, parents and children.

Now the Board of Directors of the organization wants to change MHDC's traditional direction and move away from serving low-income, working-class families. For the past three years, the Board has been increasingly at odds with the MHDC Staff over issues of Board reforms and union contract negotiations. When Gavin Newsom became Mayor, the Board was emboldened to declare their intention to begin serving wealthier clients and diverting resources to developments outside the city.

Meanwhile, the Staff and their supporters have been struggling to democratize MHDC and bring greater accountability to this critical institution that has advocated for the Mission District and developed affordable housing and community services locally for such a long time.

On January 13, over 250 affordable housing advocates and people from the Mission community met at the Centro del Pueblo Auditorium to show their support for the Staff, to reiterate the original goals of the organization, and to demand a new Board of Directors. The crowd made sure that the Board — which was holding a closed meeting at their headquarters in the office next door — heard their energetic protest. At the end of the heated meeting, a delegation filed into the Board's meeting room and, to the accompaniment of boisterous chanting and handclapping, demanded the Board's immediate resignation.

The Staff's long list of grievances goes back seven years, to the time when former

Executive Director Daniel Hernandez attempted to institute reforms and hire new Board members. Instead, the Board closed ranks and brought in personal allies to consolidate their own position of power. Disregarding numerous qualified candidates with necessary skills, they refused to adopt selection criteria for Board members that would have ensured community participation.

Three years ago, the simmering dispute reached a peak when Board Chairman Larry Del Carlo attempted to hire fellow board member Gene Royale with a lucrative, undefined consultant contract. Led by Del Carlo, the Board nearly cost MHDC the flagship Mission Bay Affordable Housing Development — now called Rich Sorro Commons — because of their intervention in the contract selection process. This was unacceptable to the Staff: they organized and demanded the rescinding of the contract, reform of the Board, term limits, and a new selection process for Board members. They demanded the selection of a community-based Board that would be committed to affordable housing; and they decided to unionize in order to guard against power plays and future reprisals by the Board.

Board members Del Carlo, Ted Alfaro, and Luis Esquero denied planning to change the objectives of MHDC and refused to resign. They stated they wanted to produce a strategic planning effort, and promised to address the concerns of the Staff and the community at that time. They also rescheduled a city-mandated Sunshine Ordinance open board meeting.

Gabriela Medrano, one of two dissenting Board members, did address the concerns of the community. She apologized for the Board's actions over the years, and agreed that it was time for a new, community-based board. She also said she would not resign until the entire Board resigned, to keep an eye on them. The other dissenting board-member, Luis Arteaga, stated similar sentiments. Other longtime Board members, such as John Nuno, seemed amused by the turnout; and Robert Zerrilla, a member since 1973, said he was against the union because it would lead to layoffs.

Despite the Board's denials, allegations, and stalling tactics, the Staff remained committed to its struggle to dump the Board. Out of the meeting on Jan. 13, a SAVE MISSION HOUSING committee was formed and began passing out petitions, denouncing the Board and addressing the issues. Ana Maria Julepe, an informed housing activist, says: "For three years the Staff worked in good faith with the Board to implement best practice reforms. They participated in two selection board processes to bring openness and accountability. The first

(continued on next page)

## VOTERS SAY 'NO' TO 'J'

San Francisco voters soundly rejected Proposition J, the Workforce Housing Initiative sponsored by the SF Chamber of Commerce and Mayor Gavin Newsom. Prop J attempted to address the housing needs of the City's moderate income workforce, a group which it defined as those earning \$77,000 to \$110,000 a year, by creating "affordable" housing most San Franciscans couldn't afford. No public

meetings, discussions or debates about the plan were held in any neighborhood before it appeared on the ballot.

69% of voters said 'no.'

Of the City's 448,948 registered voters, 167,514 or 37.32% turned out city-wide. Turnout was slightly lower in the Mission at 36.19%, where 10,430 of a possible 28,818 registered residents cast ballots.

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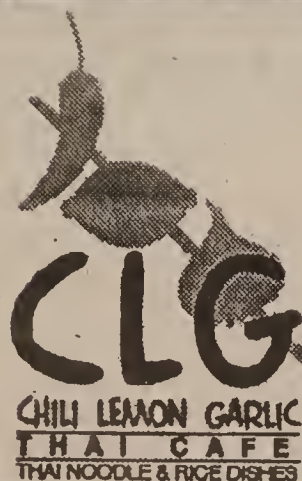
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(continued from previous page)

process was strung out for months and ended with no members chosen. Soon thereafter, Luisa Ezquerro — another longtime friend of Larry Del Carlo — was unilaterally named to the Board.

"Once again, the Staff insisted on a new selection process. The Board agreed, and set up a selection committee that included one Staff representative who would participate on the committee but would have no vote. For months the committee worked to set up criteria, nomination formats, outreach, recruitment, interviews and selection. At last, it seemed that the Board was moving in the right direction and would bring on new board members through an agreed-upon process. When, at last, the Board was set to vote on the process, they canceled the vote and made it known that they would not select any new Board members until they unilaterally changed the statement of intent of the organization. It was then that the Board made it clear that it was aligned with the Newsom campaign and that they wanted to pursue higher-income housing and partner with private developers to build market-rate housing. After the election, Luisa Ezquerro was named to the Newsom transition team."

In mid-December, the Board held a secret, closed meeting at a restaurant in the Excelsior District and excluded the two Board members who had expressed divergent views. It is not known what they discussed or decided, since no minutes were taken. But the week before Christmas, Larry Del Carlo met with MHDC Executive Director Carlos Romero and suspended him without pay. Del Carlo also informed Romero that the Board was not inclined to continue his employment "due to political differences."

On February 6, SAVE MISSION HOUSING held a candle-light protest vigil in front of the Centro del Pueblo building at Valencia and 16<sup>th</sup>. Speakers including SF Supes Tom Ammiano and Chris Daly, tenants of MHDC, members of the community and housing advocates from all over the city expressed support for Romero and the Staff. It was universally agreed that the Board no longer represented the Mission District and should resign. The time had come for reform and accountability at MHDC, and they began the process of selecting a community based-board that would be committed to affordable housing.

The Community Board made its debut at a public meeting of the old Board held at the Centro del Pueblo Auditorium on February 17. The old Board listened impassively as dozens of speakers, once again including Supervisor Ammiano, voiced their disappointment and dissatisfaction and rage over the Board's intransigence. But did they resign? HELL NO! And so, the saga continues....

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3. FISHERMAN'S WHARF (SEAFOOD) <i>Shrimp, Clam, Garlic</i>	11.35	13.65	15.85
4. NOB HILL (CHICKEN) <i>Chicken, Mushroom, Sun Dried Tomatoes, Onion</i>	11.75	15.75	17.35
5. MISSION BELL (MEXICAN) <i>Ground Beef, Onion, Fresh Tomato, Black Olive, Jalapeno</i>	13.45	16.75	18.65
6. PACIFIC HEIGHTS (ALL MEAT) <i>Ham, Beef, Pepperoni, Canadian Bacon, Sausage, Salami</i>	13.90	16.85	19.95
7. SAN FRANCISCO <i>Artichoke Hearts, Fresh Tomato, Garlic, Sausage</i>	10.85	13.45	17.10
8. HAWAIIAN SPECIAL <i>Canadian Bacon, Pineapple</i>	9.95	12.90	14.10
9. ATHENS BY NIGHT (GREEK) <i>Spinach, Feta Cheese, Black Olive, Feta, Basil</i>	12.10	14.75	17.10
10. VALENCIA SPECIAL <i>Artichoke Hearts, Sun-Dried Tomatoes, Garlic, Black Olive, Zucchini</i>	11.85	13.85	15.85

### PIZZAS

PLAIN CHEESE	7.95	9.95	12.05
1 TOPPING	8.75	11.15	13.35
2 TOPPINGS	9.85	12.35	14.80
3 TOPPINGS	10.55	13.55	16.25
EACH ADDITIONAL TOPPING	.70	1.00	1.40

### TOPPINGS

Salami • Pepperoni • Sausage • Ground Beef • Ham • Canadian Bacon  
Olives • Garlic • Zucchini • Fresh Spinach • Fresh Tomato • Onion • Pesto  
Baby Clams • Chicken • Anchovies • Shrimp • Feta Cheese • Bell Peppers  
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**San Francisco's New Minimum Wage Ordinance (MWO),  
Chapter 12R of the Administrative Code will take effect  
February 23, 2004.**

Proposition L, the Minimum Wage Ordinance was approved by San Francisco voters on November 4, 2003.

The ordinance requires most employers (whether or not the employers receives City contracts) to pay a minimum wage of \$8.50 per hour for work performed within San Francisco (minimum wage is currently \$6.75 statewide). Each year the City will adjust the amount of the minimum wage based on increases in the regional consumer price index. The minimum wage requirement would apply to employees who work two (2) or more hours per week.

The requirement would not apply to small businesses with fewer than ten (10) employees (including temporary and part-time employees) or nonprofits until January 1, 2005. Starting on that date, those small businesses and nonprofits must pay a minimum wage of \$7.75 per hour. Then, starting January 1, 2006, all small businesses and nonprofits would pay the minimum wage of \$8.50 per hour (as adjusted based on increases in the regional consumer price index).

Under the ordinance, employees who assert their right to receive the City's minimum wage are protected from retaliation. The City can investigate possible violations and enforce the minimum wage requirements by ordering reinstatement of employees and payment of back wages and penalties.

The Living Wage/Living Health Division of the Office of Contract Administration is responsible for implementation and enforcement of the ordinance. Further implementing rules and regulations will be adopted in the coming months. A multi language bulletin/notice suitable for posting by employers will be made available before the new law takes effect.

(The full legal text can be viewed at [http://sfpl4.sfpl.org/pdf/November4\\_2003.pdf](http://sfpl4.sfpl.org/pdf/November4_2003.pdf)  
Click on "L" Minimum Wage and scroll to or print pages 185-187).

# Minimum Wage Q&A

**Q: What is the new San Francisco Minimum Wage?**  
**A:** Beginning February 23, 2004 the minimum wage is \$8.50 per hour for work performed within San Francisco. Beginning on January 1, 2005, and each year thereafter, the Minimum Wage shall increase by an amount corresponding to the prior year's Consumer Price Index for urban wage earners and clerical workers for the San Francisco-Oakland-San Jose, CA metropolitan statistical area.

**Q: Does the minimum wage apply to all San Francisco employers?**  
**A:** Yes! However, the requirement would not apply to small businesses with fewer than ten employees (including temporary and part-time employees) or non-profits until January 1, 2005. Starting on that date, those small businesses and nonprofits would pay a minimum wage of \$7.75 per hour. Then, starting January 1, 2006, all small businesses and nonprofits would pay the minimum wage of \$8.50 (as adjusted based on increases in the Consumer Price Index for the metropolitan Bay Area as described above [OR: as described in the previous answer]) just like all other businesses.

**Q: Does the minimum wage apply to full time and part time employees?**  
**A:** Yes! Any person who, in a particular week, performs at least two hours of work for an employer within the geographic boundaries of the City is entitled to the City's minimum wage

**Q: I work in a restaurant as a waitperson. Can my employer use my tips as a credit toward its obligation to pay me the San Francisco minimum wage?**  
**A:** No! An employer may not use an employee's tips as a credit toward its obligation to pay the City's minimum wage.

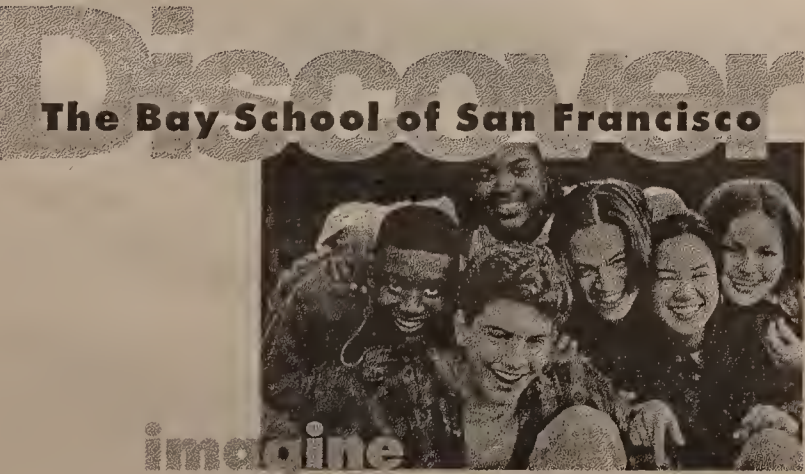
**Q: What can I do if my employer doesn't pay me at least the City's minimum wage?**  
**A:** You can either file a wage claim with the City's Living Wage/Living Health Division, or file a lawsuit in court against your employer to recover lost wages.

**Q: Does the minimum wage cover employees who work in San Francisco but are not City residents?**  
**A:** Yes! Any person who performs at least two hours of work for an employer within the geographic boundaries of the City is entitled to the City's minimum wage

**Q: What is the difference between the Federal, State and the City's minimum wage laws?**  
**A:** San Francisco employers are subject to the Federal, State and the City's minimum wage laws. When there are conflicting requirements in the laws, the employer must follow the stricter standard; that is, the one that is most beneficial to the employee. Thus, since San Francisco's, current law requires a higher minimum wage rate than does the state and federal law, all employers in San Francisco who are subject to the laws must pay the City's

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Adam Raney, author of New Mission News' bicycle column, *From The Bike Lane*, has regrettably resigned in order to give full attention to his college studies. Thank you for all your thought-provoking and informative columns, Adam! New Mission News wishes you the best of luck!

\*\*\*\*\*

With Adam's resignation, a sudden vacancy opened up for the staff position of NMN Bicycle Columnist, the next in line of a unique succession of individuals whose job pays them not in money, but in the rarer coin of whatever respect, admiration, awe, disgust or revulsion they are able to inspire in their readers.

Well, no sooner had this situation arisen than Mycroft Satan, wastrel brother of former NMN columnist Silicon Satan, called us up and insisted on "helping out" by writing the following ad hoc interim bicycle column. Would you insult him by not publishing it? No, you wouldn't; and neither will we...this time, anyway. Do you want the job? Then YOU send us a column. Really. No kidding.

# IT CAME FROM THE BIKE LANE

BY MYCROFT SATAN

To recycle a timeworn but environmentally friendly simile, bike columnists are like buses: don't worry if one goes missing; another will be along real soon. And don't worry, it won't be me.

For although I am certainly qualified, having more than a century's experience as a bicycle rider, I harbor no illusion that I am 'columnist material' as that term is conventionally understood, or that I could do this or any other job on a regular basis. I have jumped into the breach created by Adam's departure in the present instance only to share with my fellow cyclists a minority point of view which is generally underrepresented in the mainstream press.

I freely acknowledge being somewhat outside the mainstream of bicyclists in general, and bicycle columnists in particular. For example, unlike most of them, my reasons for riding a bike have nothing to do with fresh air or the environment. I do it because it's free, because it doesn't require a license or insurance, and because if something happens to my bike I can steal another one and be on my way in five minutes. But these are small things, really, and should not blind anyone to the truth of what I am about to say.

Few of us will deny that a large and unremitting ration of road rage is regularly directed at folks on bikes by the motorists with whom we are supposed to share the road. When they encounter a bicyclist while driving a car, most people suddenly find themselves in the grip of a deeply imprinted childhood memory of their dad or uncle, seated in the driver's seat of the family car, cursing the 'damnfool kids on their bicycles' and screaming at them to 'get the hell off the road!' where the grown-ups drive their cars. So insidious is the influence of this primitive ritual upon their minds that, even decades later, those who have been exposed to it often find the sight of a bicyclist on the road in front of them awakens an automatic, unreasoning sense of outrage, making them instinctively step on their gas pedals and point their cars in the direction of the offending bike.....Have they forgotten that today people on bicycles have an established legal right to use the street?

More to the point, why don't they realize that some of the bicyclists they are trying to kill are much bigger and meaner than they are, them or their dads, or their uncles, or all of them put together, and that if they aren't careful they might find a steering wheel or gearshift lever painfully lodged somewhere up between their ischial tuberosities, if you get my drift...? But wait a minute, wait a minute; I'm know I'm getting carried away. The point I am trying to make is simply this: we bicyclists are surrounded, threatened and harassed every day by hordes of psychotic lunatics who hate the sight of us, lunatics who drive heavy, lethal, motorized, metal vehicles with which they seem to want to drive us off the road.

Well, if they succeed, we will have only ourselves to blame. It is precisely our candy-assed, hippy-dippy attitude that makes them think they can get away with it. We in the 'cycle community have commonly approached this matter of 'sharing the road' with motor vehicles with such a conciliatory attitude that the motorists expect us to give up half the battle before it even starts. A far sounder stratagem for us would be to begin our fight for bicycle rights with the premise that it is the cars, trucks, buses and all their noisy, pushy, sooty ilk that deserve no place anywhere on public roads, which rightfully belong to and should be reserved for the exclusive use of bicyclists! In other words, if we adopt a posture akin to the one motorists take toward us, we can begin to wage the war for our piece of the road from a position of equivalent strength. Think about it.

I had hoped to include a set of working drawings for the new handy-dandy rear-rack brick catapult which I recently designed, built and added to my own bike's other (defensive!) armaments, but it appears that factors of available space and editorial conservatism have conspired to prevent me from doing so. However, I have also just perfected a technique which enables a bicyclist to spit onto the windshield of a pursuing automobile with an accuracy never previously imagined, and will post instructions and a detailed demonstration on my website, just as soon as I get a website. Keep the faith, babies!

The K CHRONICLES  
presents  
THE LATEST  
**OFFICE POOL**

How Will G.W.BUSH TRY TO STEAL THE ELECTION THIS TIME AROUND???

BY KEITH KNIGHT

DISQUALIFY THOUSANDS OF ELIGIBLE VOTERS...

Whoa...Sez here that you're a CAPRICORN...only VIRGOS are allowed to vote in this election...

sorry!!

**EVEN**

GET BIN LADEN TO DON THE DEMOCRATIC CANDIDATE'S CAMPAIGN TEE SHIRT NEXT TIME HE APPEARS ON AL-JAZEERA..

**4-1 ODDS**

USE EASY-TO-HACK-INTO, NO-PAPER-TRAIL-HAVIN' TOUCH SCREEN COMPUTER VOTING MACHINES... MANUFACTURED BY A COMPANY\*WHOSE HEAD IS COMMITTED TO DELIVERING VOTES TO DUBYA THIS YEAR

Tom Brady. George Bush. Paris Hilton. George Bush. EVEN. Eolum. Bugs Bunny. George Bush. JUST SO IT ISN'T OBVIOUS. QUESTIONING THIS GOVERNMENT'S ACTIONS IS DISRESPECTING THE DEAD!!

**EVEN**

SEND A FEW BALLOT BOXES OUT ON ONE OF DEM NASA TRIPS TO MARS...

tee hee hee egglees

**4-1 ODDS**

PLANT SOME WINDS IN IRAQ & CONVENIENTLY "FIND" THEM JUST BEFORE ELECTION...

tee hee hee egglees

**2-1 ODDS**

STOP THE BALLOT COUNTING & JUST GET THE SUPREME COURT TO DECLARE BUSH THE WINNER...

CAN'T VOTE HIM OUT... IF YOU DIDN'T VOTE HIM IN!!

**3-1 ODDS**

Send Stamp for caricature...

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\*GOOGLE: DIEBOLD/REPUBLICAN/VOTE

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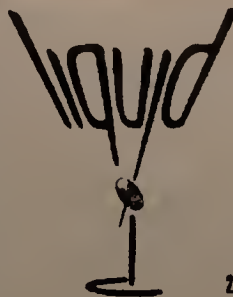
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# Improvements in District Parks

by Supervisor Tom Aminiano

Great things are happening in District 9 parks. We opened a new park – Parque de Los Ninos Unidos – in July. Several parks are undergoing major renovations. We are grateful to community groups that have undertaken rejuvenation of their area parks.

Here are a few highlights:

Rolph Park, which will be a major focus of my office in the next year, has completed the planning phase for capital improvements that include an expansion of the club house, new trees, courtyard, pathways and children's play area. The Rolph Park Neighbors have installed a community garden around the children's play structure which has breathed new life into that area. Marcos has also been assigned to Rolph as a tennis instructor and is providing free lessons after school. We are actively seeking funds for a gardener for Rolph and Precita parks to replace a Rec and Park gardener who recently retired.

I worked closely with Recreation and Park and Unified School District staff on Potrero del Sol improvements this last year, including development of an area for Buena Vista Elementary School students to use. Renovation plans, including a micro soccer field, perimeter fence, picnic tables, a children's play area and a skate park, were approved by the Rec. and Park Commission in June. Thanks to District and RPD staff and groups like the SF Skate Coalition for their work on this project.

At Garfield Square, the clubhouse was recently renovated. The square has been enclosed and is used for local soccer practice and games. The children's play area and a sport court are in the final design phase and improvements have gone out to bid. I will continue this year to work with neighbors to keep the restrooms open and clean and to seek additional patrols from Mission Station.

With the help of PODER, the Mission District saw a new park open in July – Parque de Los Ninos Unidos – at 23<sup>rd</sup> and Treat. The park is tremendously popular

and includes unique play equipment, a new clubhouse and a community garden.

Holly Park and Hoff Street Park broke ground in October for over three million dollars worth of improvements. Both parks will have new children's play areas. Holly will have ADA accessibility and new picnic areas.

24<sup>th</sup> Street Mini Park has also been spruced up and is getting a new mosaic mural in the sidewalk thanks to Lower 24<sup>th</sup> Street Neighbors and Precita Eyes Mural Arts. Mini Park is also being renovated and, after several community meetings, an exciting design has been approved that includes a giant snake and lizard and a water feature for kids to play in on hot days.

Major things are underway for Bernal Hill. Improvements have been separated into two phases because of the Banks/Chapman undergrounding project on the south side of the hill. North side improvements started late last year, including new boulders for barriers, new gates, message boards, a new sign, ADA accessibility and new benches with stone bases along the closed roadway. Parking and street crossings will also be improved. In phase 2, the south side of the Hill will be improved, and more of the road will be closed off to enlarge the park area.

Thanks also to Precita Valley Neighbors and Lower 24<sup>th</sup> Street Neighbors for their hard work on Precita and the 24<sup>th</sup> Street Mini Park, respectively. Thanks, of course, to the Park, Recreation, and Open Space Advisory Committee for their efforts to improve parks and open space citywide, including Jeanne Darrah and Alfredo Pedroza, who represent District 9 on PROSAC.

Take some time out to visit a neighborhood park near you – you'll see that great things are happening. For a list of locations and a full description of work underway, you can go to:

[http://sfgov.org/site/uploadedfiles/recpark/Capital\\_Improvement\\_Division\\_New/history\\_pages/annual\\_pages/dist9.pdf](http://sfgov.org/site/uploadedfiles/recpark/Capital_Improvement_Division_New/history_pages/annual_pages/dist9.pdf)

# ANONY MS.....WOMAN OF M.S.TERY

Anony Ms. isn't a collector, exactly, but we can't help noticing that our acquaintanceship includes quite a few members of a very rare species: the penis-bearing North American homo-sapiens-without-a-sports-jones. Quite a few—but never enough. That's why the perfect cruising day for those of Anony Ms.' predilections is SuperBowl Sunday. After all, among these privileged XYs are several of our exes (but never enough), and the convergence was such that we felt Leap Year practically goading us into some Year of the Monkey business.

Think about it: Every male you see walking around loose between the hours of three and six on SuperBowl Sunday is someone you already know something significant about. He's an exception to the herd mentality. Secure in his manhood. A rebel. Maybe an intellectual or an artist. (We should stop and say we really have nothing against people who do have a sports jones. But we're busy.)

You just have to know where to look, *n'est-ce pas*? Like the right cafés or bookstores, or in video shops, around the Chantal Akerman section, say. A friend suggested Rainbow Grocery; her cred as a conspirator immediately plunged. Hold the bean sprouts on my metrosexual, please.

We began on Market Street. Conveniently enough, it's a perfect opening to say you're a journalist and launch into your "survey." The sidewalks were eerily barren, however. In fact, the first 12 interviews all went: "So, if you didn't have to work today, would you be watching the SuperBowl?" "Hell, yeah." It was almost refreshing to break the monotony with "So, if you weren't picketing for PETA today, would you be watching the SuperBowl?"

At last, outside Macy's, Anony Ms. struck pay dirt. We approached a guy with a camera—not a tourist—who appeared to be taking serious photographs, and went into our spiel. "Yes," he said, "actually, I go out for a shoot every year [during the SuperBowl]. It's like having the whole place to myself, because everyone else is inside watching the game." Really? Yeah. He was "in the media" but not, he said, a professional photographer. Unfortunately, at that very moment, Anony Ms. had a fit of shyness and went no further. But hey, this was SuperBowl Sunday. There'd be plenty of other fish in the sea.

At the Powell Street cable car turnaround we observed that San Francisco's charms do not outweigh those of linebackers, beer, violence, and male

bonding. As the streetcar pulled in, the tourists in line numbered a paltry four. One was a man. A father. He did not look happy.

Quite a few of the men we encountered on the street were accompanied by girlfriends who seemed to have an unusually resolute grip on their guy's sleeve. We sensed that these males had committed Serious Relationship Crimes, and it was payback time. The solo faces we passed as we continued down Market Street were not terribly engaging, somehow. A flower vendor had set up a TV, "for the customers." Two orange-jacketed street cleaners were tuned in by radio.

At this point, Anony Ms. had to face the fact that we weren't having much luck. Why so few, this time? There'd been much better trolling in past years when we weren't (supposed to be) available to the experience. The weather was not cooperating here. In fact, our herd of dream guys had now been reduced by a rather important subset: the ones with enough brains to get in out of the rain. And it was playing *havoc* with our hairdo.

We could have stayed on Market, but the discourse would have turned to things like "So, if you weren't selling crack/peeing in a corner/crouched on the sidewalk doing crossword puzzles out of a book...." Anony Ms. decided the Mission would be much more fertile ground.

Emerging from BART at 16th Street (our hair a real disaster by now), we headed for what would surely prove the mother lode, Cafe Macondo. Closed. That's OK; right across the street is Adobe Books, another can't-miss venue. But not today! Three people were ensconced on the easy chairs and couch at the front of the shop. The female among them was reading from *Bartlett's Quotations*, the two guys commenting appreciatively on her selections. But then:

She: "In real love, you want the other person's good; in romantic love you want the other person."

Guy 1: "I can't relate to that."

Guy 2: "Sounds like a woman thing."

Guy 1: "Yeah. I never wanted the other person's good."


This was getting depressing. As Anony Ms. slogged down Valencia, even the Bombay Ice Creamery had the SuperBowl on TV. The new Valencia Book Store didn't: It had rocking chairs occupied by a chatty knitting circle—football widows, we imagined in our foul humor. Leather Tongue Video was empty. Lost Weekend Video (which is Chantal Akerman heaven) *had the fucking SuperBowl on TV*.

We even had to doubt our artist-or-intellectual premise. The staffer at the co-op art gallery confirmed that business was way down: "Definitely. Thirty walk-ins. Usually it's 80 by this time on a Sunday." Lefty bookstore Modern Times, also a haven for hotties of the anarcho-skateboarding persuasion, was a tomb.


Things perked up in cafe territory. Mission Creek had four prospects reading books. Well, textbooks. Some of them looking suspiciously remedial. Papa Toby's "café and art bar" had 12 such brainiacs packed into its tiny space; Muddy's at 24th and Valencia boasted 14 (but due to their larger floor area, fewer eligibles per square foot); La Bohème 15, although the owner was watching the SB on a small, silent TV. But our buzz had worn off. Hey, guy with the camera outside Macy's, check in on Craigslist, will you?

At last we steered our funk back home...and there, on our answering machine, was a voice from the past. One of our maybe-not-entirely-ex-boyfriends had called from out of town to say he missed us. In the middle of the SuperBowl. You know, really, with proper upkeep, a good ex is like a fine wine. Doldrums dissipated, we were back in the groove.

And now it is time to stop and make one thing clear: We don't really have anything against bean sprouts. Honest.



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## Ongoing Events

Through March 14: "The Art of David Ireland: The Way Things Are," a retrospective of works by acclaimed artist & Mission resident David Ireland, @ Oakland Museum of California, 1000 Oak, Oakland;. Wed-Sat, 10am-5pm; Sun, noon-5pm (first Fri, 10am-9pm). \$8, \$5 seniors and students. (510) 238-2200

**SUNDAY NIGHTS at the LONE PALM CY-CHEDELIC SUNDAYS** with DJ Cy and Ace the Wonder Dog. The Lone Palm 22<sup>nd</sup> Street at Guerrero.

**SATURDAYS AND TUESDAYS** Something's Cooking at the **BIKE KITCHEN!** Ever wish you had your own personal 'bike shop? The Bike Kitchen could be the answer to your prayers! At this cooperative, community bicycle repair shop, volunteers provide all the tools, parts, and expertise necessary to help you fix or build your bicycle at extremely low cost. Repair classes will start in March. The Kitchen is seeking volunteers interested in learning more about bike repair as they help folks fix their bikes -- a great way to improve ones own skills while assisting others. The Bike Kitchen is located at the Mission Village Flea Market at 18th & Alabama, and is open Saturdays from 11am to 4pm and Tuesdays from 6pm to 8pm. For more info, e-mail [thebikekitchen@yahoo.com](mailto:thebikekitchen@yahoo.com) or stop by the shop during open hours.

**WEDNESDAY NIGHTS** Eric Peterson hosts the best Bay Area comedians at The Uptown Comedy Open Mic at 8:30pm at The Uptown 200 Capp Street at 17<sup>th</sup> one block East of Mission. Free and no drink min! Info: [www.epeterson.com/uptown](http://www.epeterson.com/uptown) or [www.epeterson.com/comedy](http://www.epeterson.com/comedy)

**THURSDAY NIGHTS**, from 7pm to 10pm, the San Francisco SoundWAVE a capella women's choir meets in the Simon Auditorium at Laguna Honda Hospital, 375 Laguna Honda Boulevard (where it intersects with Dewey Blvd and Woodside Ave). The WAVE is a group of women of all ages and backgrounds with one thing in common - they love to sing! Drop by on Thursday or call Jeanne at 415.665.7960 or Linda at 415.856.1410 for more info.

**THE 2004 CARNAVAL SF KING & QUEEN COMPETITION** will take place on Saturday, April 10<sup>th</sup> at the Gift Center, 888 Brannan Street. The Carnival Hotline: 920-1025. Website: [www.carnavalsf.com](http://www.carnavalsf.com)

**EVERY FRIDAY NIGHT COME TO THE HOUSE OF BLUEGRASS** at MAXFIELD'S 398 Dolores Street at 17<sup>th</sup> Info: [www.AmericanRootsMusicShow.com](http://www.AmericanRootsMusicShow.com)

**FRIDAY & SATURDAY NIGHTS COMEDY** at the MOCK CAFE. Fridays stand-up comedy from 9pm on, Saturdays start w/an hour of open mic at 9pm, followed by comedy showcase. \$7 at The Marsh, 1062 Valencia Street (off 22<sup>nd</sup>) Info: 826-5750 or [www.themarsh.org](http://www.themarsh.org)

**OKRA: A DARK COMEDY** by Anne Galjour at **THE BRAVA THEATER**. Playing Sat, Feb 21<sup>st</sup> thru Sun, March 14<sup>th</sup> Brava Theater Ctr 2789 24th Street at York Shows: Wed-Sat 8pm & Sun matinee 3pm \$18-\$28 (senior/student/disab. \$4 discount)

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Tickets available at Brava box office. For info call 647- 2822 or visit [www.brava.org](http://www.brava.org)

There's a new phone number you can call 24 hours a day with your gardening and composting questions: **THE HANC ORGANIC GARDENING & COMPOSTING HOTLINE: 646-0710**

## March 2004

### MARCH 2 TUESDAY ELECTION DAY!

Jazz at Intersection presents United Brassworkers Front @ Intersection for the Arts, 446 Valencia (btwn. 15/16), 8 pm, \$12 15 sliding scale. 626-3311

**MODERN FANTASY SOLO OPERA PERFORMANCE ARTIST THOTH** (whose life was the subject of an Oscar-winning documentary) plays, dances and sings stories of a mythical world and its heroes, villains and customs, in a made-up language. Soundbites at [www.cdbaby.com](http://www.cdbaby.com) The Shooting Gallery 839 Larkin Street 7pm \$3 For more info call 931-8035 or visit [www.shootinggallerysf.com](http://www.shootinggallerysf.com)

### MARCH 3 WEDNESDAY

Acclaimed Comedy Outfit *Killing My Lobster* presents its latest production, *Killing My Lobster Pop*, with music by the Boneless Children Foundation @ Theater Artaud, 17<sup>th</sup> & Mariposa, 8 pm. \$17 general, \$12 student. 267- 0642

### MARCH 4 THURSDAY

**HAIR HOPPER Ba-da-BINGO with THE SISTERS OF PERPETUAL INDULGENCE!** Insane hosts, infamous Sister Betty, live bands, door prizes and over \$1,700 in cash awarded every night! \$50 cash prize for the player with the tallest wig! MCC Church, 150 Eureka Street (btwn 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>) Doors open 7PM. We always sell out! Don't miss out, buy tickets in advance! Info: [www.badabingo.org](http://www.badabingo.org)

*Killing My Lobster Pop* @ 8 pm. See 3/3 for info.

### MARCH 5 FRIDAY

**HERSPECTIVES: INT'L WOMEN'S DAY CELEBRATION PRESENTED BY THE WOMEN'S BUILDING, MISSION GIRLS, LOCO BLOCO, WILD FOR**

**February / March 2004**  
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**CONTRIBUTING ARTISTS & JOURNALISTS:**  
Sonny Smith, Alfonso Texldor,  
Tom Ammlano, Rolando Carrillo,  
Kelth Knight, Richard Pitt, Anony Ms,  
Resurreccion Cruz, Mycroft Satan,  
Ryder Miller, Vlad Teppchfresser

Cover illustration of Omer Travers by  
Atticus Wolrab [www.henlooth.com](http://www.henlooth.com)

**HUMAN RIGHTS & CENTER FOR YOUNG WOMEN'S DEVELOPMENT.** Interactive art installations and live performances expose power in women traditionally considered evil or crazy. Live Art at 7pm, Performances 8pm, All ages - sliding scale donation \$5-\$30. The Women's Building 3543 18th Street. Contact Makiko Kambayashi at 431-1180 ext 20 or [makiko@womensbuilding.org](mailto:makiko@womensbuilding.org) or Tina Bartolome at 355-4744 ext 405 or [tina@wildforhumanrights.org](mailto:tina@wildforhumanrights.org) for info.

*HUMAN RIGHTS WATCH Intntl. Film Festival* presents documentary *PINOCHET'S CHILDREN* in Spanish @ Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, 700 Howard St., 8:30 pm. 978-ARTS

Asian American Theater Co. presents an hour-long line-up of comedy sketches @ SomArts Theater, 834 Brannan St., 8 & 9:30 pm, pay-what-you-can \$0-\$15.

*Killing My Lobster Pop* @ 8 pm. See 3/3 for info.

### MARCH 6 SATURDAY

**HERSPECTIVES** at The Women's Building (see March 5<sup>th</sup> for details, above)

**APRILL'S FAST CARS LOOSE WOMEN PRESENTS CHROME-PLATED BACK SEAT BINGO** An Evening of Bands, Burlesque, Babes & Booze w/ Hot Local Fashion Designers and Smokin' Models. Ages 21 & over please 9pm-2am \$6 before 10pm / \$8 after 10pm 12 GALAXIES 2565 Mission St at 22<sup>nd</sup> Info: 970-9777 or [info@12galaxies.com](mailto:info@12galaxies.com)

**WORM COMPOSTING CLASS** -- Turn kitchen scraps into rich fertilizer. Learn the basics of worm bin composting from a certified Community Composting Educator. Free! 10am-12noon at Garden For the Environment, 7th Ave (at Lawton) Call HANC's Organic Gardening & Composting at 731-5627 to pre-register.

**Family Storytime in Spanish** @ Mission Branch of SF Public Library, 300 Bartlett St., 12 noon, free. 355-2828

*Killing My Lobster Pop* @ 7:30 & 10 pm.. See 3/3 for info.

Asian American Theater Co. presents an hour-long line-up of comedy sketches: see 3/5 for info.

### MARCH 7 SUNDAY

**2004 BAY AREA INTERNATIONAL WOMENS DAY (IWD) CELEBRATION** Distinguished guest speakers, exhibitions, discussions and forums on the 2004 IWD theme: **WOMEN AS PEACEMAKERS; WOMEN AS PEACEKEEPERS.** Noon-3pm The Women's Building, 3543 18th St. btwn Guerrero & Valencia. Donation \$10, kids free, childcare avail \$5. RSVP to [sfinternationalwomensday@yahoo.com](mailto:sfinternationalwomensday@yahoo.com)

**HERSPECTIVES** at The Women's Building (see March 5<sup>th</sup> for details, above)

*Killing My Lobster Pop* @ 7 pm. See 3/3 for info.

## WORM BARK FOR ART!!!



Saturday, March 20<sup>th</sup> 6pm-11pm Don't miss the Third Annual Bay Area Bark for Art silent auction and art show, with free food, refreshments and live entertainment. Proceeds will benefit Rocket Dog Rescue and the Urban Sanctuary Project, with all money going toward saving the lives of animals scheduled for euthanasia at overcrowded shelters in the Bay Area. At The Center, 1800 Market Street (near Duboce). For further info, visit: [www.rocketdogrescue.org](http://www.rocketdogrescue.org)

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MARCH 11 THURSDAY

Orientation Meeting for prospective volunteers @ St. Luke's Hospital, 3555 Cesar Chavez St., 3-5 pm. 641-6538

MARCH 12 FRIDAY

OFF THE WALL, a group art exhibition & sale @ Build Gallery, 483 Guerrero (nr. 17<sup>th</sup>), 6-9 pm. 863-3041

MARCH 13 SATURDAY

Family Storytime in Spanish @ Mission Branch of SF Public Library, 300 Bartlett St., 12 noon, free. 355-2828

MARCH 15 MONDAY

Your Medical Questions Answered Free in English or Spanish during the Lupus Foundation's Semi-Annual Dial-A-Doctor Night. Call (800)523-3363 from 8:30 am-6 pm to leave questions; then doctors return calls from 7-9 pm.

MARCH 23 TUESDAY

DEVORAH MAJOR (Poet Laureate of San Francisco), Mahru Elaha, Michelle Matz, and WriterCorps Youth Poets share the stage @ Intersection for the Arts, 446 Valencia, 7:30 pm, \$5-\$15. 626-3311



MARCH 24 WEDNESDAY

Attention homeys! Learn how to use homeopathic remedies for yourself & your family in a free seminar at Pacific Academy of Homeopathy, 1199 Sanchez St., from 7-9 pm. 695-2710

MARCH 25 THURSDAY

SF Historical Society presents *Galleon in the Dunes*, a lecture by Edward Von der Porten about ongoing work on the site of the earliest known Manila galleon wreck, dated to 1576, at 8 pm in Mission Dolores High School Auditorium, \$5. 750-9986

MARCH 26 FRIDAY

5 pm today is the deadline to enter the Carnival Queen & King Competition to be held Saturday, April 12 @ 8 pm at Giftcenter Pavilion, 888 Brannan St., with \$500 cash prize for each winner! 920-0125

MARCH 27 SATURDAY

Family Storytime in Spanish @ Mission Branch of SF Public Library, 300 Bartlett St., 12 noon, free. 355-2828

MARCH 30 TUESDAY

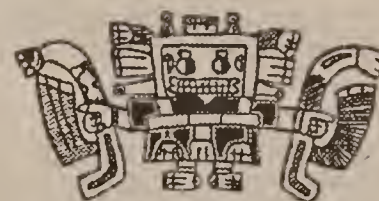
Young Performers Theater presents *The Real Mother Goose*, 11 am @ Mission Branch of SF Public Library, 300 Bartlett St., free. 355-2828

APRIL 2 FRIDAY

Spoken Word Event:: Confirmed so far - Jello Biafra, Kevin Danaher, Medea Benjamin and Matt Gonzalez; at Great American Music Hall.

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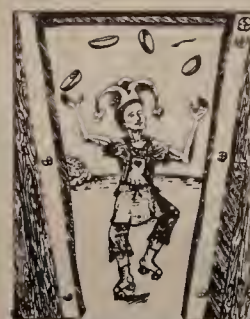
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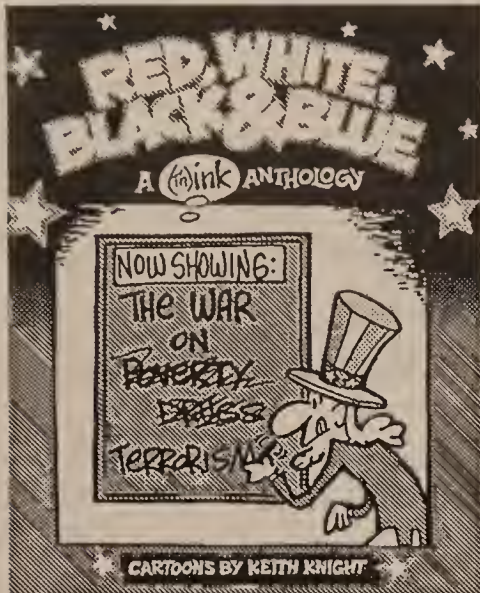
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Fans of comic artist Keith Knight, whose "K Chronicles" grace the pages of the *New Mission News* every month, will be delighted to hear that a new anthology of his cartoons, entitled *Red, White, Black and Blue*, has just been published. You need this book! In fact, why not get all four of Keef's books? You *know* he can use the money!



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**What a Long Strange Strip It's Been:** The latest *K Chronicles* collection. Includes 41 shots, 32 lines about 32 roommates & smoking crack w/God! \$16

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.....

**Parking Perils in The City: Why It's Easier to Leave Your Heart in San Francisco Than It is to Park Your Car...** by Terry Meany is the first book to bring together in a single volume everything there is to know about the ins and outs of parking in our fair city, from citation contesting techniques to getting your very own red zone.

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To get a copy, visit [tmeany@msn.com](mailto:tmeany@msn.com) or write to the author at 8120 NE 158<sup>th</sup> Place, Kenmore, WA 98028.

.....  
**THE SIN OF NORA MORAN**, a movie made in 1933 and not widely seen then (probably) nor thence (certainly), has nonetheless reappeared among us in digital video format. It is a movie made the way they don't make movies any more. It has the kind of plot, pacing and production values that Edward D. Wood Jr. tried, and miserably failed, to achieve in his own works, which this film still somehow resembles.

Nora Moran is played by the slightly bug-eyed Zita Johann, an actress who horror aficionados and old-timers will affectionately remember as Boris Karloff's love interest in *THE MUMMY* (1931). Other characters in the movie include The Governor (Paul Cavanagh), The Governor's Wife (Claire duBrey), and The District Attorney (Alan Dinehart), who looks and talks like Karl Malden before his nose had completely grown in. Or out.

And if you think we have corrupt politicians today, check out the ones in this picture. The story begins as the Governor's Wife visits the District Attorney (who is also her brother) and shows him a packet of love letters which seem to prove that her husband, The Governor, has had an affair with an unknown woman. When GW announces her intention to make this woman suffer, the DA replies, with a smarmy and all-knowing avuncularity, that the woman has suffered quite a bit already. The plot then begins to unfold in flashback form as the DA relates the history of Nora Moran, an innocent orphan whose loving adoptive parents were killed in an auto accident while she was still a teenager; he tells how the girl, newly compelled to support herself, joined the circus and worked for a year as a lion tamer's assistant, then fled to the big city when her boss trained his drunken attentions upon her...; how she met and fell in love with The Governor, who concealed his marriage from her, rented her an apartment, and then carried on an affair with her until he was finally caught in the act by his brother-in-law and political manager, the District Attorney himself.

Convinced that Nora must be either a gold-digger or a blackmailer, the DA tried to pay her off to 'take a hike,' but to his amazement she refused all offers of money and declared she would never do or say anything to harm the Governor's career.

However, a scant two hours later, she summoned the DA back to her apartment and showed him the freshly-expired corpse of her former abuser, the Lion Tamer, claiming to have killed him in self-defense when he tried to force her to help him blackmail her former lover. She begged the DA to help her dump the body down by the railroad tracks where the circus was loading up, so that the man's death could not be connected, through her, to the Governor. Remembering how much time he had personally invested in his brother-in-law's career, the DA reluctantly agreed; and Nora, in return, promised not to reveal the DA's complicity in the event she should ever get caught.

And get caught she *did*, the very next morning; but to the DA's surprise and relief, she kept her word and maintained her silence about his part in the crime, even as he prosecuted her and obtained a conviction for capital murder.

Now, her only hope to avoid execution rested with...the Governor! Her former boyfriend! Hey, this could still work out okay!...couldn't it?

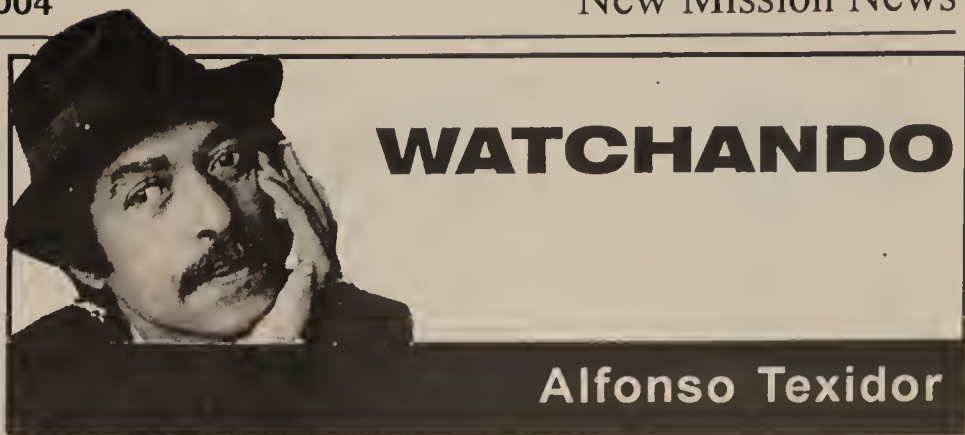
At this point in the DA's narrative, to which the Governor's Wife is still listening (for remember, my dears, this has mostly been a flashback!), he shows her a letter the Governor has just sent him confessing responsibility for the Lion Tamer's death. Moreover, the Governor admits, he was too late to stop Nora's execution..

Saving the best part for last, the DA now wraps up the evening's entertainment by informing his sister, the Governor's Wife, that the letter was a suicide note and that her husband has perished by his own hand.

Wow. They just don't make movies like this one anymore.

You can rent *THE SIN OF NORA MORAN* at *Lost Weekend Video*.

-Vlad Teppichfresser



ONES TO WATCH

**Performance Opportunity Mar. 12-13 / Mar. 19-20:** Dance Brigade Spring Choreographers Showcase: for both experienced and emerging choreographers of all dance genres to show their work or work-in progress in a professional setting. Dance Mission Theater, 3316 24 St @ Mission St. Tel: (415) 826-4441

**FEB. 13 — MAR. 2 • 16TH Annual Solo Mujeres Art Exhibition** A juried exhibition featuring work in all media, celebrating the women artists in our community. Featuring local & international artists. Roundtable With Artists: Wed., Feb. 18 — 7pm-9pm Adm. \$5 / Poetry & Music: Wed., Feb. 25 — 7pm-9pm Adm. \$3 / Video de Mujeres: Thurs., Feb. 26 — 7pm-9pm Adm. \$4. At: Mission Cultural Center for Latino Arts, 2868 Mission St. Tel. (415) 821-1155.

**Feb 14 — 2pm Hubris Corpulentus Exhibition — Prints by Art Hazelwood • Panel Discussion: Functions & Uses of Political Art Now / Panel Moderator: Peter Selz & Art Hazelwood, Jos Sances, & DeWitt Cheng • Sat, Feb 21—2pm: Artists Show Their Wares: From Rags to Posters • MERIDIAN GALLERY SOCIETY FOR ART PUBLICATIONS OF THE AMERICAS: 545 Sutter St, SF. Tel: (415) 398-6176**

**DIRECT FROM CUBA • 7 POTENCIAS AFRO-CUBAN FOLKLORE ENSEMBLE / Shows & Concerts (\$20): Feb. 22 — 5pm; Mar. 7 — 5pm: Mar. 24 — 7pm / Workshops (\$15) Feb. 5 — 7:30pm; Mar. 24 — 7pm. Call Mission Cultural Center for other listings: Tel. (415) 821-1155 • After many problems obtaining U.S. visas & canceling a previous engagement here in the Bay Area, this internationally acclaimed Afro-Cuban folklore group finally makes it's first appearance in the U.S. & will perform in a series of concerts & workshops at the MISSION CULTURAL CENTER, 2868 Mission St, & other venues throughout the month of Feb. & Mar. Workshops will be taught by the members of the group, and will consist of different genres of dance & music, including Popular Dance (Salsa, Son, Cha-Cha-Cha), & Folklore with live music.**

**Feb 24—8pm: Carnaval SF-SF Crab Festival Presents "FAT TUESDAY" Mardi\* Gras Celebration** Featuring Carnaval Champions Loco Bloco, Bayonics, DJ Papi Chocolate. At: Rocapulco, 3140 Mission St. Adm. \$12. Tickets available at [www.locobloco.org](http://www.locobloco.org); and [www.carnavalsf.com](http://www.carnavalsf.com)

**FRI, FEB. 27: 9:30pm — 2am • CD RELEASE PARTY:** Live Performance: EQUIPTO, ANDRE NICKATNA, MAC DRE & THE NATION OF THIZZLAM, SAN QUINN; Music by SHORTKUT-TRIPLE THREAT DJs, & BRAINCHILD, Distortion2Static. At: Club Cocomo, 650 Indiana St, SF @ Mariposa. \* 21 yrs & over \* Adm. \$10

**Feb. 27-28 \ 8pm; Feb. 29 — 2pm & 7pm • Following The Thread Through Modern Dance From Cuba & Back to Africa • "A Piece of White Cloth":** Alayo Afro-Cuban Dance Company \* Choreography-Direction by Ramon Ramos Alayo \* At: Dance Mission Theater, 3316 24th St, SF. Tickets & Info: (415) 273-4633 \$15 Adv. \$18 door. (Party after performance: Sat., Feb. 28. \$8 @ Bissap Baobab, 2323 Mission St)

**Feb. 27: 7pm — 10pm • ArteForo 7th Annual Benefit Art Auction • Featuring Artwork by Camilo Minero, Cathleen Apodaca, Juan Fernando Barrera, Alexandra Blum, Ricardo Cartagena, Martivon Galindo, Jose Ramon Lerma, Romeo G. Osorio, Calixto Robles, Michael Roman, Mario Rosales. To Benefit the Foundation of Disabled & Handicapped for Integral Development — FUNDELIDDI FOUNDATION — a non-governmental organization based in El Salvador, that provides financial assistance & job training for the victims of the Salvadoran Civil War. At: Back to the Picture Gallery, 934 Valencia St @ 20 St. Call: (915) 826-2321. (All donations & bids are tax deductible)**

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OMER THE TROUBADOUR

# He's Coming Soon To A Doorway Near Yours

Omer Travers is a mendicant musician, a street singer, a minstrel, or you might call him a troubadour. Most any day, you can catch his act in one of the acoustically friendly doorways he favors along Valencia Street between 20<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>. He works seven days a week, playing six to ten forty-five minute sets on his guitar each day. He covers some Santana, some Beatles, some Buddy Holly, some Rossini, some Beethoven and, of course, plenty of his own compositions. He may be James Brown's most formidable rival for the title of "Hardest Working Man in Show Business," although Brown doesn't play outdoors as often as Omer does.

Born in San Diego and raised in Bakersfield, Omer came to San Francisco some twelve years ago by way of Venice, California and New York City, where he was a frequent guest on the Howard Stern Show. Settling in the Mission, aided by welfare and pioneering their new income-disregard policy, he opened an art gallery called *Awesomeflower* near 16<sup>th</sup> and Valencia.

"The government paid for *Awesomeflower*," Omer recalls. "We played the street and clubs, we were artists, we sold paintings, I sold other people's paintings... And every artist that ever brought art into *Awesomeflower* got a piece up. I never turned anybody away. Never! And, you know, the funny thing is, the artists that didn't have much up would bring their friends by: 'Hey! I got a piece in an art gallery!' It was beautiful. *Awesomeflower* was really beautiful!"

The galley closed after almost two years. As Omer tells it: "The slime factor slithered in and began stealing from me. I gave up the gallery because...I had a ukulele—it cost me twenty bucks, it was my daughter's and she would jam on it—someone stole it! And I was doing construction to pay the rent, and helping all these people, and..." he trails off sadly.

After that, Omer took his solo act back on the streets where he plays to this day. "A lot of people think I'm a bum...that's how they treat me...but I work hard! I'm out here every day, I've done a lot of good shit in the neighborhood!" For example? "Okay, picture this: Mission between 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>, late night, dark. This was about December 15<sup>th</sup>. A guy's beating the shit out of a chick—on Mission Street!—and

everybody's acting like nothing's going on! Same old creepy story! I put my hand up like I got a cell phone: 'I'm calling the cops!' Some guy says, 'There's a cop right down the alley!' I run down the alley, grab the cop: 'Some guy's beating up a woman!' The cop sees the perp: 'Hey, you!' and that was a little cop, and a little me, and a big perp! A big man! At that point, just luckily, four cop cars came around the corner from 17<sup>th</sup>, up Mission. And when the perp saw that, he hit the dirt! He practically put the cuffs on himself! And the cops kept goin' on by: they were on their way to a different bust!" he laughs.

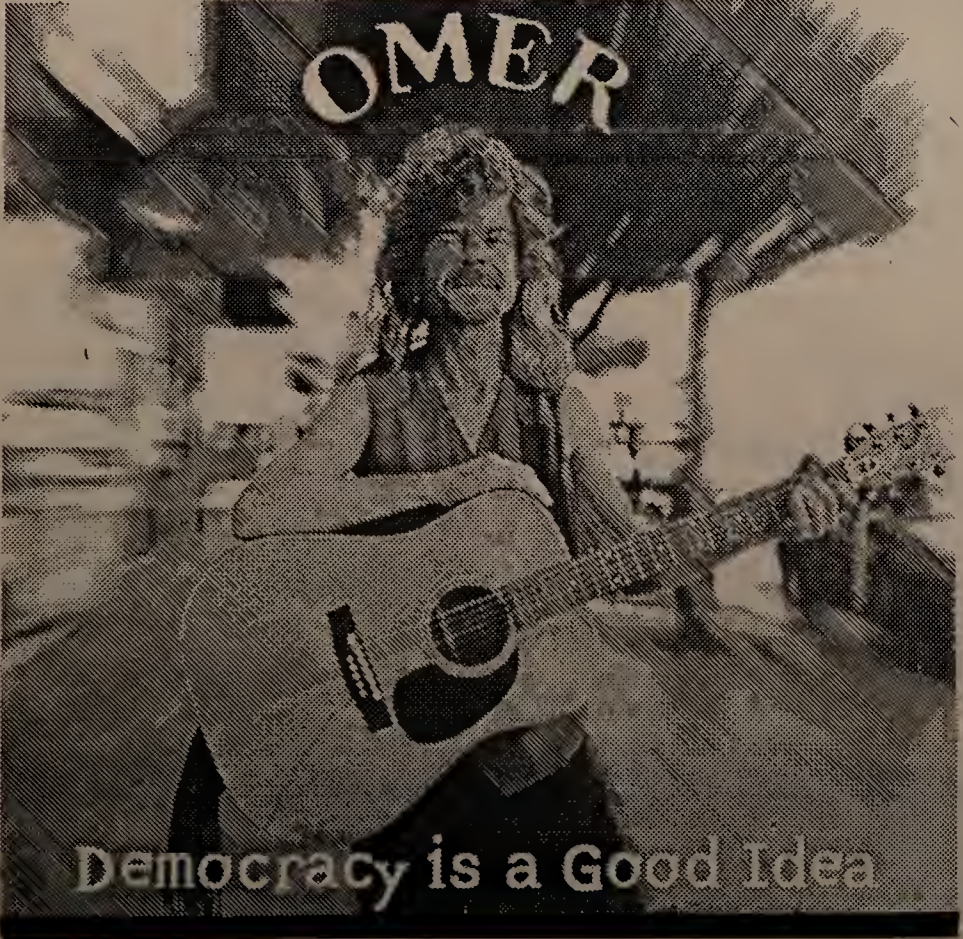
Omer has experienced assault and battery first-hand many times during his years on the street, for he is not universally loved—though to become so is one of his aims in life. "F\*ck fame and fortune! I'd rather have love and respect!" he declares with a throaty cackle. "I want to be like Gandhi!"

As yet, complete Mahatma-hood has eluded him. "There's a difference between singing and raving," remarks one neighborhood observer (who requested anonymity), "and sometimes he crosses the line!" To be sure, all people are not equally thrilled when they find a troubadour performing in their entryway, especially one who harmonizes with car alarms, sirens and other urban noises; and Omer, when his spirits are high, has been known to heckle his hecklers right back and piss them off mightily. But dealing with disparagement is all in a day's work for one who plays the streets. "If somebody didn't like me, it wouldn't be normal," he says with a philosophic grin. And, love him or hate him, no one denies Omer is part of the Mission

"I believe what's kept me in San Francisco all this time is, there's some badass artists here. ....unrecognized, but still badass! I have this feeling like there's a collective of us....and when one of us breaks through the door, the rest are all saying, 'Yeah!'"

Characterizing his own artistic thrust, Omer is quick to explain, "In the land of art and music, I go for the cookies!"

A CD of Omer's music, entitled "Democracy is a Good Idea," may be obtained through a website called *Spectacularopticals.com*.

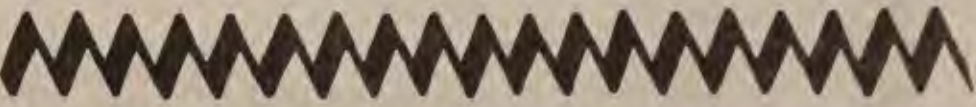


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Friday, March 5 7:30 PM	Jo Freeman at Berkeley in the Sixties: The Education of an Activist, 1961-1965
Saturday, March 6 3:00 PM	Whitney Chadwick & Tirza True Latimer, Modern Woman Revisited: Paris between the Wars
Thursday, March 11 7:30 PM	Jim Garrison, State of the World Forum: America as Empire
Sunday, March 14 2:00 PM	Jeffrey St. Clair: Politics of Nature Alexander Cockburn: Politics of Anti-Semitism

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MONDAY, MARCH 8 7:30 - 9 PM	Poetry Reading featuring Brown Miller, Michael Calvello, and Louise Nayer
MONDAY, MARCH 15	7:30 - 9 PM: Poetry Reading plus Open Mike
TUESDAY, MARCH 16 7:30 - 9 PM	Friends & Students of Diane di Prima: Lynette Cloutier, Nancy Wakeman, Marcene Gandolfo
MONDAY, MARCH 29 7:30 - 9 PM	Poetry Reading featuring guests from the New College Poetics Program

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## 10 Reasons Why I Wrote About The Mountains

I had facial hair,  
A lot of facial hair.  
I enjoyed the movie *Serial*  
Ohh, the mountains of Colorado  
The mountains of Colorado  
They put telescopes there,  
Telescopes there on the top of  
Mountains.  
I wanted to fly to the top of Olympus  
Mons,  
Olympus Mons, the tallest Mountain in  
the Solar System.  
I looked at that woman,  
I looked at the woman like a mountain  
man.  
I should have been drinking water,  
I should have been drinking clean  
Mountain stream water.  
The SETI Institute was there  
The SETI Institute was there  
in Mountain View.  
We, they, had something to say  
Something to say about mountains  
And climbers of mountains.  
It would be a struggle.  
To climb to the top of the Mountain  
Would be a struggle.  
Have you seen *Continental Divide*?  
I wanted to be both those guys  
In the movie *Continental Divide*  
I wanted that woman, I wanted that  
woman  
Like I think a mountain man wants that  
woman.  
I helped save Mt. Sutro,  
A mountain in the middle of San  
Francisco,  
Mt. Sutro.  
I found the mountains beautiful.  
Beautiful and uplifting.

-Ryder Miller

## Our Own Voice Mine & Yours

(to Matt Gonzalez)

My voice is merely yours  
My voice is my voice, my personal voice.  
The same unforgettable sentimental voice,  
The old and young voice,  
The very striking moving voice,  
The long-forgotten ancestral voice,  
The pounding drums voice,  
The voice that perseveres and persists,  
The enduring resistant voice,  
Reader's - listener's voice, prophet's  
voice.  
We're the voice, the resonant indistinct  
voice,  
The preacher's voice, the force of  
changing voice,  
The always rising bewildered voice.  
Your voice is my voice—our own personal  
voice,  
The voice that never changes,  
The authentic angelical peoples' chorus  
voice,  
The human soloist voice,  
The deaf-mute's voice,  
The writers' and poets' voice, we're the  
same voice.  
The tired immigrant's voice,  
The sweet passionate lover's voice,  
Yours, mine, our own voice;  
The same voice that never rumbles.  
The interconnected voice - yours - mine -  
our own voice;  
The wannabe man and woman, the  
wannabe affiliated voice -  
The saxophonist, accordionist,  
ventriloquist, fiddler's voice -  
Speaking, writing, reading, singing,  
Voicing, voicing, voicing, a voice of one's  
own -  
Driven by what's deep, deep, so deep  
inside our undeniable hearts.

-Rolando Carrillo



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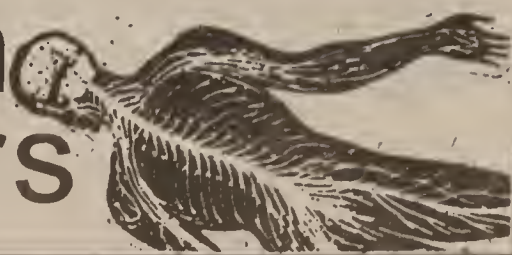
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## Health Matters



Richard Pitt

Amoxycillin is the most commonly prescribed antibiotic for children with ear infections. This cause dwarfs all other reasons for giving antibiotics. In the last couple of years, pediatric organizations have been recommending that doctors do not prescribe antibiotics so routinely. This is partly because it is not always clear whether or not a child with ear pain or just a red ear drum has a bacterial infection, and partly because a growing resistance to antibiotics of all sorts is becoming a major health concern throughout the world. One of the most frequent experiences of a child and mother is that the child catches a cold (most often a viral contagion); mucus is created in the nasal passages, which then moves into the ear canal. This can then put pressure on the ear drum and may cause pain. Then a secondary bacterial infection takes place. However, when a doctor looks into the ear of a child, it is not generally possible for him to tell if the infection is bacterial or viral. Antibiotics only work on bacterial infections, not viral ones. Also, most ear infections will clear of their own accord even if left alone, once the mucus begins to drain away. Therefore, many antibiotic prescriptions are given unnecessarily. Some doctors are now being much more cautious about giving out antibiotics, but in general their tendency is still very much to prescribe them.

Recent studies have confirmed the trend away from antibiotics. In one study in Cincinnati (*Treatment of otitis media with observation and a safety-net antibiotic prescription*, *Pediatrics*, Sept. 2003), investigators examined whether parents of 175 selected patients (age range 1-12 years: mean, 5 years) with acute otitis

medica (AOM) would tolerate a watch-and-wait approach following diagnosis. Children who had temperatures higher than 101.5F, recent history of ear infection, or signs of other bacterial infection were excluded. Parents were given samples of antipyretics and topical eardrops and antibiotic prescriptions, which they were told to fill only if symptoms did not resolve after 48 hours. One hundred and twenty parents (69%) did not fill antibiotic prescriptions; and 97% of these parents indicated they would be willing to use pain medication without antibiotics in the future. Most parents who filled prescriptions did so because of continued pain and fever. The vast majority of parents gave ibuprofen, acetaminophen, or antipyrine/benzocaine drops to their children.

What this study revealed is that many uncomplicated ear infections will get better by themselves, with some relief only from pain medication, and these do not need antibiotic therapy. It is important to give antibiotics when necessary, but they should not be given routinely for self-limiting conditions. Antibiotics have been one of medicine's great inventions; but now, after 50 years of use (and abuse), their effectiveness is being radically challenged by the ability of bacteria to develop resistance to them. The underlying assumption, that we can conquer disease with chemicals/drugs, is now being seen as too simplistic. However powerful the drug may be, nature seems to find a way to develop a resistance to it sooner or later, making us re-evaluate our approach to treatment.

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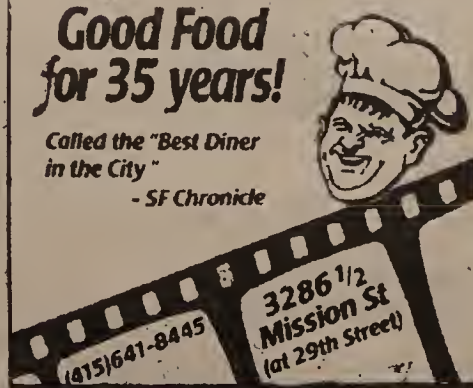
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## La Post-Modern Curandera by Resurrección Coyoltzin Cruz

Dear Curandera,  
I've felt on the brink of tears all weekend, sometimes spilling over, sometimes not. I've got to get a handle on these sad feelings about my former lover. It's been two years. I really must move on. I thought at this point in my life I would be more settled but that's not the case. Is there anything I can do?

-Nick

Dear Nick,  
In answer to your "glum" email about your sad feelings and difficulty moving on, I suggest you try burning a pink candle for nine days to the Sacred Heart of Mary, beginning on a Friday. She is the patron saint of the broken hearted, since her heart was broken while witnessing the systematic torture and assassination of her son, Jesus. Sometimes loss of a person feels like emotional torture and love assassination. This ritual might help you to move on, which is sometimes difficult to do (don't I know it!).

Love,  
Rez

Dear Curandera,  
Can you recommend how to have someone ask you out or like you?

-VP

Dear VP,  
If you already have your eye on someone who doesn't seem to have noticed you, there are lots of little charms you can try to attract her or his attention: carry a pinch of fresh rosemary and lemon balm in your pocket; wish for a date on a bay leaf, then burn it; place a nosegay of periwinkle flowers on your desk at work, if your love interest often passes by; or kiss a red rose left in his path. Rose and Jasmine are

scents known to inspire love and attraction. A favorite of mine is to tie one of my hairs with one of his, and then save it in a safe place (in case I change my mind!), or to burn a rose-scented candle, offered to one of the gods or goddesses of love: Tonantzin-Guadalupe, Aphrodite, Oshun, Angus Og, and don't forget St. Valentine! Try one charm or ritual at a time, and wait a few days in between to see the effects. Never do more than one ritual at a time for the same thing, because just as putting many different herbs into a stew makes it come out tasting like nothing special, the conflicting energies and spiritual helpers can wreak havoc in your life at the worst, or make nothing at all happen at the least. In other words, everything cancels out everything else. Keep in mind that everything you do, you are doing with the intention that the person will turn his attention towards you. Remember: these suggestions are only to capture the attention of that person. Once you have it, it's up to you to make the most of that contact, even if you have to step out of bounds to do it, like asking him out or giving him a bunch of roses. Magic can't make someone love you or be attracted to you for long if they are not so inclined. People still have the power of free will. Magic can only attract their attention-the rest is up to you and your Goddess-given charms.

Rez

*La Post Modern Curandera is by Resurrección Cruz. If you have spiritual or health questions that aren't being addressed by your religious and medical establishments, send Rez your questions at [lacurandera@earthmonsterbooks.com](mailto:lacurandera@earthmonsterbooks.com). Ms. Cruz is the author of "Santora, The Good Daughter," Xipactli Publishing, available at Modern Times Books, Books, Inc, and Barnes&Noble.com.*

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# February 2004

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## Solo Mujeres women & spirituality



### Exhibition

February 13<sup>th</sup> - March 19<sup>th</sup>

Reception: Friday, Feb 13, 2004

7pm-10pm, \$5 admission

Painting by Susan Matthews, Photo by Adrian Arias

Roundtable with Artists: Wednesday, Feb 18, 2004

Theatre 7:00-9:00 p.m., admission \$5.00

MUJER en el ARTE 1: Wednesday, Feb 25, 2004

Theatre 7:00-9:00 PM, admission \$3.00

A night of literature, music and performance

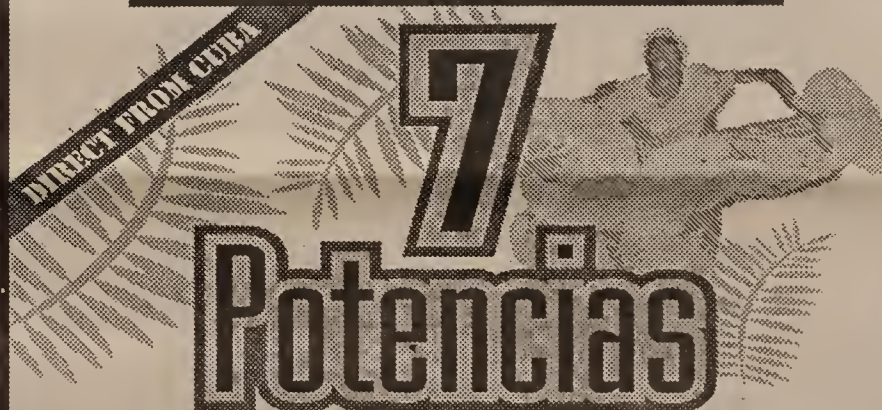
MUJER en el ARTE 2: Thursday, Feb 26, 2004

Theatre 7:00-9:00 PM, admission \$4.00

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Gallery hours: Tuesday - Saturday, 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

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- Wednesday, February 25th at 7:30pm
- Sunday, March 14 from 11:00am-1:00pm

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[www.MissionCulturalCenter.org](http://www.MissionCulturalCenter.org)

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Sonny Smith

## Steppin' out

### easy there, big fella...

vengeance will be mine. that's what I thought with the bag of shit in my hand, the guy still yelling at me from the second floor bedroom window down off 25<sup>th</sup> near the other Puerto Allegre. blabbing off at the mouth, this guy, with his two kids peering their little heads out over the window sill to see who daddy's yelling at. me, 'cause my dog pooped on the piece of dirt near his tree. I picked it up but it wasn't enough. I guess it ain't right to have a dog in the city. that's what it comes down to. the city is split: folks that think a dog can be in a city; folks that don't. city's not fit for a dog, says this guy, in his own way.

I back off, real gentle. vengeance will be mine. I won't yell back. just back away easy. later that night I go get plowed, walk by his house on the way home, dump a little trash on his tree, then pee on his door, stumble to bed and begin to think: vengeance, it ain't so bad. feels kind of good, actually. I start reeling back to all the different folks I could take vengeance on. lotta folks. so many folks I realize I gotta narrow it down to the last couple years. next day I set out. I drive over to my old place off 22<sup>nd</sup> on Lexington. was a woman lived there, played her salsa music so loud it came through my walls all the damn time. ALL the damn time. nothing like salsa bass coming through walls, worse than rap bass. no change, that's why. just repetitive, over and over, like torture. I'd ask her to turn it down. then, of course, I was the biggest party pooper on the planet, asking her to turn it down. what a downer, man. never worked anyway. asking, that is. neither did complaining, or yelling...

So I went up to her door, two years later, on my newfound mission: mission of vengeance. knocked on her door and rang her bell at the same time. she came down, didn't recognize me. I cold-cocked her in the face. she got a bloody nose. I walked back to my car, all jittery and nervous, got in and drove away... (continued on next page)



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(continued from previous page)

all frazzled. I looked at my list, next stop, city tow. I cut that trip short 'cause I ran into a meter maid on the way. poor guy, lying on the road with a broken neck. not a pretty picture, folks. his dinky little wagon all toppled over on him, half rammed into a telephone pole.

I drove out to marin. I had house-sat out there a couple years back and the next door neighbor had ripped into me for walking into his backyard to fetch a ball. guess he had some insurance issues in the past, or he was just a dick. of course I didn't say anything back, being a representative of another man's house and all. then the bastard's wife came out in a tie-dye and started rippin' on me, too. I just retreated back into the house. that was two years ago. times had changed. thoughts had been thunk. things had been figured out. I drove up to the house and rang the bell. no one was home. I rang a few times: nothing. I wrote a little graffiti on their door. just a little, so they'd get the message: 'I don't like you.' simple and to the point.

life was good again. feelings had been changed. unfinished problems had been addressed. progress had been made. but, as usual, I had left some of the hardest stuff for last. I had to stop by a certain man's house. man is hardly the word. swine. scoundrel. he was sleeping with Lily back when we were breaking

up. scoundrel. villain. half-man. I never did anything. 'karina will get him,' I used to say. 'it'll catch up to him,' that's what I'd say, trying to 'rise above' it and all that old-me shit. god, I was already starting to feel good just knowing he was finally going to pay. just knowing. I came up into his driveway a little too fast and dented in his garage door. I scared myself. I went up to the door as he was coming out and kicked him in the nuts. he keeled over, clutching. with a look of anguish, confusion. I kicked him again. more confusion, more anguish. I kicked him in the balls one more time. of course, I was kicking him in the hands that were covering his balls but his hands just made it sort of like croquet. you know? when you whack the ball you're standing on, so the ball next to it goes a-flying. it was like that when I kicked his hands. he was on the ground in pain. I don't know if he registered or not. slowly his hands went away from his balls and started to grip the ground, as if he was dying. it was a death scene. I kicked him in the nuts one more time. it was disgusting.

someday it would be god. I would have to take vengeance on god. by his design we've been made to suffer. here and there, all the time, depending on how your dice have rolled. someday I would take vengeance on god, but not yet. for now, I back away slowly, gently. I don't say anything. just back off, real gentle-like.

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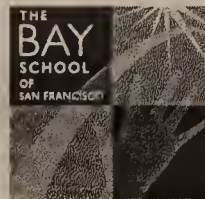
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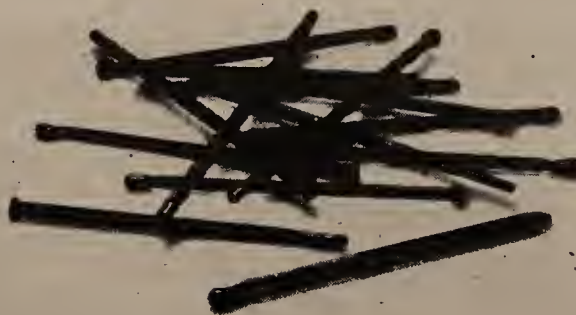


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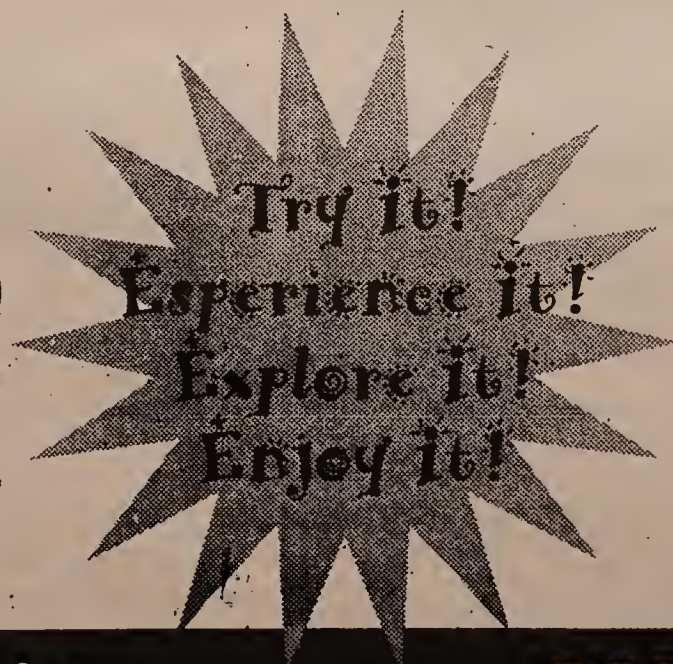
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